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## Viewing cable 06BOGOTA8283, AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH RESTREPO TO DISCUSS

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Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

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Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06BOGOTA8283	2006-09-08 21:05	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

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VZCZCXYZ0000  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #8283/01 2512105  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 082105Z SEP 06  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8663  
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 7098  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 8163  
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RHEHOND/DIRONDCP WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 008283

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/08/2016  
TAGS: [KJUS](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [CO](#)  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH RESTREPO TO DISCUSS  
EXTRADITION AND JUSTICE AND PEACE LAW PROCESS

Classified By: Ambassador William B. Wood.  
Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

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SUMMARY  
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¶1. (C) The Ambassador voiced U.S. concerns to GOC Peace Commissioner Luis Carlos Restrepo on August 31 that the GOC's inclusion of narcotraffickers on its list of paramilitary leaders seeking Justice and Peace Law benefits threatened our positive extradition relationship. Restrepo agreed and said the GOC would extradite soon five, and possibly seven, such narcotraffickers. He blamed former Interior Minister Pretelt for trying to undo the Constitutional Court's JPL ruling through the implementing decree, but said the major challenge currently facing the peace process is the Fiscalía's reluctance to begin taking version libres. The meeting ended with Restrepo noting paramilitary leaders' growing concerns about their personal security, asking for financial assistance for GOC efforts to identify and destroy weapons handed in by demobilized paramilitaries, and providing an impromptu briefing to President Uribe on the status of the peace process. End summary

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RESTREPO ON EXTRADITION AND JPL LISTS  
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¶2. (C) The Ambassador met with Peace Commissioner Luis Carlos Restrepo on August 31 to express his concerns that the GOC's recent actions undermined our excellent extradition relationship. Restrepo told the Ambassador that narcotraffickers who were trying to buy their way into paramilitary structures to benefit from Justice and Peace Law (JPL) should be extradited. He said the GOC posted the list of 24 extraditables on the Presidency's website on August 30 to stimulate popular pressure against their inclusion. Restrepo said he did not agree with the inclusion of Eduardo Vengoechea and Juan Carlos Sierra on the JPL lists and blamed former Interior and Justice Minister Sabas Pretelt for their inclusion.

¶3. (C) Restrepo said paramilitary leaders were initially upset with the publication of the lists. Paramilitary leader (Resistencia Tayrona Bloc) and narcotrafficker Hernan Giraldo Serna, who had included seven well-known, imprisoned narcotraffickers on his bloc's demobilization list for possible receipt of JPL benefits, had called him to complain about the government's action. Restrepo said he also had met

the previous day with the paramilitary leaders in La Ceja to explain the decision. He had emphasized to the para leaders that the process needed to be transparent to be credible. After the meeting with Restrepo, the leaders reversed their stance and issued a statement supporting the GOC's decision to publicize the lists.

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JPL DECREE SHOULD REFLECT COURT'S DECISION  
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14. (C) Restrepo insisted the JPL implementing decree must reflect the Constitutional Court's decision. He blamed Pretelt for trying to create

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VERSION LIBRES REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY  
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15. (C) Restrepo said he was having a hard time convincing the Prosecutor General's Office (Fiscalia) to begin taking version libres, because the office wanted to first fully investigate the cases. He complained that he had tried unsuccessfully for over three months to encourage the Fiscalia to start the process. Further delays could discredit the process and discourage those paramilitary leaders who want to talk from doing so. He said 25 paramilitary leaders in La Ceja, three in police stations in other regions, and 205 mid-level commanders in the 12 concentration zones are ready to give version libres now. With each delay, however, they are starting to melt away due to fear of retaliation by renegade para groups.

16. (C) Restrepo expressed concern that the Fiscalia was hesitating because of an unfounded assumption that it had to take 2,695 version libres all at once. Instead, the Peace Commissioner wanted the Fiscalia to focus on the 240 he has lined up to begin the process. He warned that the GOC knew nothing about 2,200 of those that have petitioned for JPL benefits and that the Fiscalia should therefore begin with those 240 well-known cases. (Note: the list of 2,695 demobilized paramilitaries does not include the more than 2,400 incarcerated paramilitaries who have also requested JPL.) Restrepo voiced frustration at the Fiscalia's failure to act on his week-old request that it take the version libre of the killer of former AUC leader Carlos Castano, Jesus Rolda (AKA Monoleche), who has offered to cooperate fully. He said he was worried that if the Fiscalia was unable to act on a single case, how could it manage the other cases.

17. (C) The Ambassador recognized the need for the version libre process to begin, but said the Fiscalia's task of taking more than 5,000 version libres was overwhelming. He said the Fiscalia had asked for more manpower and the breaking up of the lists, as well as more resources for the section of Colombia's Supreme Court that will hear JPL appeals.

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CARLOS CASTANO'S DEATH  
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18. (C) Restrepo said he was in Monteria, Cordoba Department, on the day of Carlos Castano's murder, preparing the area that was to later become the site of the concentration zone in Santa Fe de Ralito. He learned immediately from one of Castano's bodyguards that Monoleche had killed Castano. Five days later, Restrepo said he met with para leaders, including Salvador Mancuso and Vicente Castano, at an isolated location near Ralito, where he was told that Castano "was on vacation." They allowed him to question Monoleche who, at the time, had denied his participation in Castano's murder.

19. (C) Restrepo said para spokesman "Ernesto Baez" had been very helpful in convincing Monoleche to now cooperate with him in locating Castano's body. He attributed this to Baez' shame over what the paras had done to Castano. Restrepo said the para leaders wanted Monoleche to assume complete guilt for Castano's murder. Still, Restrepo said Castano's brother, Vicente Castano, had played a role in the death. He added that Vicente, who he called an astute businessman who made money off of everything, was not close to the other para leaders. Restrepo speculated that if Vicente turned himself in under President Uribe's ultimatum, he would insist on being held apart from his colleagues.

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PARAS PARANOIA JUSTIFIED  
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110. (C) Restrepo warned paras were feeling ever more vulnerable about their security. He said the GOC recognized the need to offer some sort of protection for them and their families. Few para leaders trusted each other, and internecine wars within the para community were threatening the lives of the leaders and their subordinates. In the past week, Macaco's second in command was murdered in Medellin. Para leader "Cadena" had also been killed after expressing his interest in testifying about crimes committed by his group. Restrepo said the paramilitary leaders' fear was causing them to remain in La Ceja; some mid-level commanders were abandoning the process. He dismissed press reports that five para leaders had left La Ceja for medical conditions.

111. (C) Restrepo said confidence building was necessary. He thought the Catholic Church's National Reconciliation Commission could be very helpful. Unfortunately, the Commission's focus on the FARC made it unable to play a constructive role with the paramilitaries.

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REQUEST FOR U.S. SUPPORT FOR ARMS DESTRUCTION  
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112. (C) Restrepo asked for U.S. financial support for the destruction of arms turned over by the paramilitaries. For judicial purposes, Restrepo said the GOC would need USD 50,000 to conduct ballistic testing before destroying these weapons. The arms have been in 24 military bases around the country; the GOC was concerned with the security of the arms. The consolidation and destruction of these weapons remained stalled. The GOC hoped to begin the process in the coming weeks and expected to be finished by November.

URIBE CALLS RESTREPO FOR UPDATES

13. (C) As the Ambassador wrapped up the meeting with Restrepo, President Uribe called Restrepo on his cell phone for an update on the peace process. Restrepo in a brief, but precise summary told Uribe the following: (1) he would accompany Monoleche to the site of Carlos Castano's remains on September 1 with the DIJIN and the Fiscalia; (2) para leader Jorge 40 planned to turn himself in to Congress's Peace Commission in Cesar Department on September 4; (3) GOC intelligence officials had told him Vicente Castano continued to ask for judicial assurances and was complaining about his economic situation; (4) Los Mellizos sent out a communique asserting their para affiliation; (5) a para leader (AKA Cuchillo) was threatening to rebuild his group in Meta Department; and (6) the Fiscalia was still not moving forward on taking version libres. He also said the GOC needed to increase public forces in Uraba where the FARC had kidnapped five civilians in an area formerly controlled by demobilized para leader El Aleman.

WOOD